

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bag comprising:

a housing having a storage area and a surface;

an extendable handle connected to the housing;

an auxiliary wheel unit having at least one castor connected to the surface which in an extended state extends from the surface at an angle of at least 15 degrees to form an extended support base for the housing, and in a retracted state folds against and is essentially in parallel with the surface; and

a release mechanism having a cable which extends from the wheel unit for releasing the wheel unit from the surface to extend into the extended position.

2. A bag as described in Claim 1 wherein the release mechanism includes an actuator connected with the cable and remote from the wheel unit.

3. A bag as described in Claim 2 wherein the actuator includes a button assembly.

4. A bag as described in Claim 3 wherein the button assembly includes a button which, when depressed into a depressed state, moves the cable which allows the wheel unit to move to the extendable position.

5. A bag as described in Claim 4 wherein the wheel unit includes a front panel, a back panel connected to the surface, and a linkage that connects the front panel with the back panel.

6. A bag as described in Claim 5 wherein the button assembly includes a lever that engages with the cable, and is positioned such that when the button is depressed, the lever is moved by the button and moves the cable.

7. A bag as described in Claim 6 wherein the button assembly includes a button spring in operative relationship with the button such that when the button is depressed, the button spring is compressed, and when the button is released, the button spring moves the button from the depressed state back to an undepressed state.

8. A bag as described in Claim 7 wherein the release mechanism includes a slider in contact with the wheel unit and the cable so when the button is depressed into the depressed states and the cable is moved, the cable moves the slider and releases the front panel from the back panel.

9. A bag as described in Claim 8 wherein the slider has a latch, and the linkage has a front link and a back link, and a linkage hinge connected to the front link and the back link, the front link having a groove which engages with the latch to hold the front panel with the back panel in the retracted state.

10. A bag as described in Claim 9 wherein the wheel unit includes a coil spring which, when the slider is lifted and the

latch moves apart from the groove, automatically moves the wheel unit into the extended state, where the front link and back link are in linear alignment.

11. A method for moving a bag comprising the steps of:

activating a release mechanism having a cable which extends from an auxiliary wheel unit having at least one castor connected to a surface of a housing having a storage area which in an extended position extends from the surface at an angle of at least 15 degrees to form an extended support base for the housing, and in a retracted state folds against and is essentially in parallel with the surface; and

releasing the wheel unit from the surface to extend into the extended position.

12. A method as described in Claim 11 wherein the activating step includes the step of activating an actuator of the release mechanism connected with the cable and remote from the wheel unit.

13. A method as described in Claim 12 wherein the activating step includes the step of depressing a button of a button assembly of the actuator to place the button into a depressed state which moves the cable which allows the wheel unit to move to the extendable position.

14. A method as described in Claim 13 wherein the depressing step includes the step of depressing the button to move a lever which moves the cable.

15. A method as described in Claim 14 wherein the depressing step includes the step of depressing the button which compresses a button spring in operative relationship with the button, and releasing the button so the button spring moves the button from the depressed state back to an undepressed state.

16. A method as described in Claim 15 wherein the depressing step includes the step of moving a slider of the release mechanism in contact with the wheel unit and the cable when the button is depressed into the depressed states and the cable is moved to release the front panel from the back panel.

17. A method as described in Claim 16 wherein the moving step includes the step of lifting a latch of the slider apart from a groove of a first link of a linkage of the wheel unit, causing a coil spring attached to the back panel to automatically move the wheel unit into the extended state, where the front link and a back link of the wheel unit are in linear alignment.

18. A bag comprising:

a housing having a storage area and a surface;

an extendable handle connected to the housing; and

an auxiliary wheel unit having a back connected to the surface, a front and at least one castor which in an extended state extends from the surface at an angle of at least 15 degrees to form an extended support base for the housing, and in a retracted state folds against and is essentially in parallel with the surface, the wheel unit having a pressure mechanism extending from the front which, when depressed allows the wheel unit to move from the extended state to the retracted state.

19. A bag as described in Claim 18 wherein the wheel unit includes a front panel having the front, a back panel having the back, and a linkage connected to the front panel and the back panel.

20. A bag as described in Claim 19 wherein the linkage includes a front link connected to the front panel, a back link connected to the back panel and a linkage hinge connected to the front link and the back link about which the front link and the back link rotate as they move between the extended state, where the front link and the back link are in linear alignment, and the retracted state, where the front link and the back link are essentially folded together.

21. A bag as described in Claim 20 wherein the pressure mechanism includes a bar disposed along the front of the front panel and connects with the front link so when the wheel unit is in the extended state and the bar is depressed, the front link is caused to be moved relative to the linkage hinge, breaking the linear alignment with the back link and allowing the front panel

and the front link to be folded together with the back link and the back panel.

22. A method for moving a bag comprising:

placing an auxiliary wheel unit having a back connected to a surface of a housing having a storage area, a front and at least one castor into an extended state where the wheel unit extends from the surface at an angle of at least 15 degrees to form an extended support base for the housing;

pulling the housing by an extendable handle connected to the housing;

depressing a pressure mechanism of the wheel unit extending from the front which allows the wheel unit to move from the extended state to a retracted state where the wheel unit folds against and is essentially in parallel with the surface; and

moving the wheel unit into the retracted state.

23. A method as described in Claim 22 wherein the moving step includes the step of rotating a front link connected to a front panel having the front of the wheel unit relative to a back link connected to a back panel having the back of the wheel unit about a linkage hinge connected to the front link and the back link as they move between the extended state, where the front link and the back link are in linear alignment, and the retracted state, where the front link and the back link are essentially folded together.

24. A method as described in Claim 23 wherein the depressing step includes the step of depressing a bar of the pressure mechanism disposed along the front of the front panel and connected with the front link causing the front link to be moved relative to the linkage hinge, breaking the linear alignment with the back link and allowing the front panel and the front link to be folded together with the back link and the back panel.

25. A method as described in Claim 24 including the steps of;

activating a release mechanism having a cable which extends from the auxiliary wheel unit; and

releasing the wheel unit from the surface to extend into the extended position.

26. A bag as described in Claim 10 including a release mechanism having a cable which extends from the wheel unit for releasing the wheel unit from the surface to extend into the extended position.